

Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014

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KING'S HOPING TO TURN TOWN FORTUNES ROUND

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RIVER RESTAURANT TAKES SHAPE AT TOWN MEADOW

NEW FLOATING EATING VENUE LIKELY TO OPEN IN THE SPRING

The first floating restaurant in Northampton is due to open in the spring after a 'dining boat' was lowered on to the River Nene.

The specially-built boat was put into place at Midsummer Meadow shortly before Christmas.

Its owners, Jack Patel and his daughter, Hema, are now working on fitting out the vessel before its grand opening.

Hema said: "We're still working on the menu, but it's going to be all-British food which will be locally sourced and cooked on-site."

Discussing the planning behind the static restaurant, she added: "It's been a dream of my father's for a long time."

"He used to look at the River Nene and think it would be perfect to have a boat on there."

"He's put everything into it and it's been eight years in the planning, but he's never given up."

The boat is due to open in the spring on a site close to the town's former power station, where the new University of Northampton campus is due to be built.

Hema said: "We can see the works for the university going on from where we are. It's going to be fantastic to be part of that area when the university opens."

Plans for the restaurant were first submitted to Northampton Borough Council in 2010.

They caused controversy at the time because the police identified the Midsummer Meadow area as a known 'gay cruising' site and members of Northampton's gay community threatened to take legal action to prevent the development.

Their legal threat came to nothing however and plans for the restaurant were backed by the council in 2010 and again in April this year.



Sections of the restaurant are lowered into place; (inset) how the static boat will look

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New housing development could ‘stitch up the town’

A “huge democratic gap” is contributing to plans to build more than 28,000 homes in and around Northampton by 2029, it has been claimed.

The proposals, which have been in gestation since 2006, say that 41,760 homes will need to be built across West Northamptonshire by 2029, with 28,458 of these in the Northampton area.

Residents and politicians say there are serious concerns about a lack of infrastructure, congestion on already-crowded roads, flood risks and pollution.

It has also been suggested that councillors from Daventry and South Northamptonshire are allowing Northampton to take a far greater burden of the houses than it should.

The latest version of the report, which is called the joint core strategy, was voted through at a meeting of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit on Monday night.

Under the strategy, Daventry is set to receive just 6,984 more homes by 2029, with 9,018 for South Northamptonshire. In Daventry’s case, this figure has dropped from 7,360, while Northampton’s has risen from 8,000.

Northampton borough councillors Phil Larratt, Penny Flavell, Jonathan Nunn and Tim Hadland all voted against the report, as did county councillors Andre Gonzalez de Savage and Michael Clarke.



Protest group Residents have been opposing one of the planned development, Buckton Fields, since 2011

But when the vote was tied, the chairman, Daventry councillor Chris Over, made the casting vote in favour, to cries of “shame” from the public gallery.

The report will now be subject to a public consultation, between January 14 and February 26. It refers to a number of sustainable urban extensions (SUEs), which could see large developments in places such as Hardingstone, Collingtree and Moulton.

Councillor Larratt (*Con, East Hunsbury*), said: “I am not prepared to support a plan at any cost. We need a plan which is right for Northampton.”

“There is no point in putting out a plan which is so unsound. I don’t think what we have before us is a sensible vision for Northampton.”

“Where is the localism? There is a huge democratic gap in this process. These are all sites where developers want to develop because it suits them.”

“I am not a puppet for the Government and I will not dance to their tune. This is a plan to stitch up and dump on Northampton.”

Councillor Larratt also said the plans would make the south of Northampton a dormitory town, used by people who work in Milton Keynes.

His views were echoed by Councillor Gonzalez de Savage (*Con, East Hunsbury and Shelfleys*), who said Milton Keynes would get all the economic benefits from the plan.

West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit head, David Atkinson, told the meeting: “If we do not have a plan, there is a grave danger that speculative planning applications will come in, which do not have the infrastructure.”

“It is true there are no easy choices coming forward. But it is critical that decisive action is taken to move this forward.”

If the plan is agreed, it will be adopted in August.

Daventry councillor defends his vote

THE Daventry councillor who made the casting vote over the draft housing plan has denied claims that the process was not democratic.

Councillor Chris Over’s decision to proceed with the vote drew heavy criticism from Northampton representatives on the panel, due to the lack of consensus on all sides of the county.

But Councillor Over (*Con, Abbey South*) said it was necessary to progress the plan.

He said: “The structure is set up where the chairman does have the casting vote, and I think it was important we went ahead with it.”

“There had been a degree of unanimity, until what you might call the 11th hour. The door is not shut, but it was necessary to make progress,” he added.

levels of development, Councillor Over said: “Daventry is also taking on a considerable amount of growth and is the second biggest growth area in this group.”

“Phil [Larratt] is a powerful speaker, but he has come in towards the end of this exercise. He may not have a full understanding of the discussions and work which has been done by the joint planning unit to bring us to the position we are in.”

The proposals, which have been in gestation since 2006, say that 41,760 homes will need to be built across West Northamptonshire by 2029, with 25,758 of these in Northampton borough.

Residents and politicians say there are serious concerns over a lack of infrastructure, congestion on already-crowd-



Councillor Chris Over has defended his decision

ed roads, flood risk and pollution.

The latest version of the report, which is called the

joint core strategy, was voted through at a meeting of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit this week.

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League tables of

Pupils at almost one in five primary schools in Northampton are not achieving the expected level in reading, writing and maths latest league tables have shown.

A total of 10 out of 52 primary schools in the town have not managed to achieve the Government 'floor target' of 60 per cent of year six pupils achieving a level four in reading, writing and maths.

However, there were also a number of success stories in the town including Standens Barn Primary School where 95 per cent of students hit the expected academic levels.

Headteacher Simon Blight said he believed the high results were due to a number of changes to the curriculum which helped each child to achieve their potential.

He said: "We looked at the whole curriculum and made sure it was based around what the children wanted to learn.

"We also looked at the quality of teaching and made sure it was excellent throughout the school.

"We made the changes so they weren't just a quick



GOOD RESULTS Children at Standens Barn Primary School celebrate with

fix but were implemented throughout the school.

"We have set ourselves an average of 85 per cent so to

achieve that we need to make sure every child fulfils their potential."

Mr Blight said reading lev-

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schools



headteacher Simon Blight

els at the school had been improved by involving parents in the teaching of phonics.

Pupils and staff at John

Hellins Primary School in Potterspury are also celebrating their Key Stage Two results.

The village school ranks in the top five per cent of primary schools in the country for its 'value-added' score.

Headteacher Shelly Bramblesaid: "Not only did all of our year six pupils achieve level four, which is what the government expects, but all of them also went on to attain level five in mathematics.

"88 per cent gained level five in English, 94 per cent in reading and 75 per cent in the new grammar and punctuation test," she added.

"This is a tribute to the dedication of all our teaching and support staff throughout the school and, of course, to the hard work of our wonderful year six pupils.

"Our school motto for the year was 'Be the best you can be', and we are so proud of all of them for living up to those words."

Nationally, the primary school league tables show 767 state primaries in England failed to meet the minimum standards in reading, writing and maths.

Results for primary schools in town

THE top 10 primary schools in Northampton for the number of pupils achieving level four in writing, reading and maths are:

Weston Favell	98%
Standens Barn	95%
St Mary's Catholic	89%
Preston Hedges	88%
Whitehills	88%
Hopping Hill	88%
Collingtree Coffe	88%
Caroline Chisholm ...	87%
Moulton	84%
Duston Eldean	84%

The lowest 10 primary schools in Northampton are:

Blackthorn	26%
Lumbertubs	37%
Spring Lane	41%
Lings	48%
Thorplands	48%
The Good Shepherd Catholic	50%
Green Oaks	52%
Barry	55%
Castle	57%
Kings Heath	59%

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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'I've given a kidney away'

A health professional has given the gift of life to a complete stranger by anonymously donating one of her kidneys to them.

Teresa Dobson said the altruistic act was something she had been thinking about doing for several years, and decided to go ahead with it earlier this year.

The 57-year-old went under the knife earlier this month, and both she and the recipient of the kidney are doing well.

Mrs Dobson, who sits on the board of the county's health watchdog, Healthwatch Northamptonshire, will never learn the identity of the person she has helped, but she will be told about their progress.

The recipient will also never find out where their new kidney came from.

Mrs Dobson, who lives in Broughton, said: "I am feeling a bit sore and washed out, but that was to be expected."

"But once I have recovered, there shouldn't be any lasting effect on my health. I can live perfectly well with one kidney."

Speaking about the reasons for the donation, she said: "I have two kidneys, and for the sake of a bit of inconvenience and discomfort, I can give someone else their life back. I'm not extraordinary. People do things for others all the time and this is just another way of doing that."

"It was something I had heard about three or four years ago. I thought it was something I could do, but at



kind act Teresa Dobson, who has donated a kidney to a stranger

that time I was a family carer and it was not practical.

"You go through a triage of medical and physical tests, looking at your overall health, and also psychological tests. They need to make sure you are doing it for the right reasons."

Mrs Dobson, who has three children and six grandchildren, added: "My family are very supportive, but I think they have struggled to understand why I have done it."

Due to Mrs Dobson's generosity, a second person has also

received a new kidney.

The recipient of her kidney had a donor lined up, but they were not a match, so that person has donated their kidney to someone else instead.

Anyone interested in following in Mrs Dobson's footsteps would need to contact their nearest transplant hospital and speak to a living donor co-ordinator.

Hospitals which carry out transplants include Leicester General Hospital, and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

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Jobless 'lowest in five years'

Unemployment in Northampton is at its lowest level for five years, figures have revealed.

There were 4,200 people claiming jobseeker's allowance in Northampton in November, the lowest number since November 2008, when 3,903 people were out of work.

It was the eighth consecutive month that unemployment in the town had fallen, and the latest figure is 1,874, lower than the year's highest point, in March last year, when 6,074 people were claiming.

There were 400 fewer people claiming in November than in October, which equates to three per cent of the population being out of work.

This was slightly above the regional average of 2.7 per cent, and the national average of 2.9 per cent.

Paul Griffiths, chief executive of Northamptonshire Chamber, said: "The figures highlight the fact that companies are becoming more confident about growth investment, resulting in job creation and wealth.

"This is a reflection of what businesses have told us in our

own quarterly economic survey – companies in both the service and manufacturing sectors are planning to recruit further.

"None of the manufacturing respondents had reduced their workforce in the third quarter with 50 per cent expecting their workforce to increase over the coming three months.

"This shows businesses are optimistic about the future which will go some way to helping the revival of the UK economy."

Sajeeda Rose, deputy CEO of Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership, said: "Northamptonshire's economy, businesses and workforce are thriving, and supporting the continued improvement in employment figures is central to this.

"In 2013 we saw an extra 2,200 new jobs created in the county, alongside a significant reduction in the number of people looking for work, which reduced by more than 3,700 during the year.

"By 2021, we aim to create an additional 20,000 jobs in the Northamptonshire econ-



Deputy chief executive officer of Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership, Sajeeda Rose

omy. The positive ONS [Office for National Statistics] figures support our assertion that Northamptonshire's econ-

omy is set for continued growth during 2014."

Nationally, more than 30 million people are now in

work in the UK, including an extra 54,000 people in the East Midlands, compared with three months ago.

Sywell Airshow to return in 2014

THE centenary of the Great War will be marked at the return of the popular biennial Sywell Airshow.

The date for the show next year has been set for August 17, and will feature a line-up of World War One aircraft, all in aid of the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

There will also be Spitfires, Mustangs, aerobatic teams and many more displays at the show, which raised more than £50,000 in 2012.

Early bird discounted tickets are available now, by calling Northampton 491112 or visiting www.sywellairshow.co.uk

An airshow spokesman said: "We have been over the moon with the response from the public in recent years and sell a huge amount of tickets in advance. Sales have been increasing year-on-year."

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Plan for Watford Gap wind farm is revealed

A Spanish wind farm company has revealed plans for a new development in Northamptonshire.

Gamesa has submitted plans to Daventry District Council to build five turbines close to the Watford Gap service station, west of Long Buckby.

The development, which would be known as the Watford Gap Renewable Energy Park, would be operational for a maximum of 25 years.

It would feature five turbines, which would all be 415ft tall.

In documents submitted to the council by Gamesa, the company admitted such a development may not be welcomed by everyone in the area.

They said: "The wind turbines will be present in many views from public footpaths and other rights of way in the vicinity of the site, and this change is likely to be a significant visual effect within 2 to 3 km of the development site."

"Whether this is perceived



Plans for a new Northamptonshire wind farm have been revealed.

as adverse or beneficial depends upon the attitude of the viewer."

The company had planned to build a seven-turbine wind farm on the site in 2011, but has now scaled back the plan.

The company has said the five turbines would create enough energy to power 4,326

houses a year.

They have also said farming would continue on the site after the turbines have been built.

Members of Daventry District Council's planning committee are expected to decide whether the plan should go ahead in the coming months.

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Rosey Willis of Raunds, with Lance Jones of Working Strategy

Designer's a hit across the pond

A designer from Raunds has hit the big time across the pond after an American company spotted her creations.

The lifestyle brand Anthropologie approached Rosey Willis, 34, and asked her to design and supply products for its US stores.

She set up a business de-

signing and making wedding stationery in 2009, perfecting her creations in her spare time while she works as a dental nurse in Rushden.

Anthropologie, part of the US retail giant Urban Outfitters, spotted Rosey's products on Etsy, an online company specialising in vintage and homemade products.

They asked her to design and produce something for their holidays range and she came up with her New Year's Resolution Kit which will go on sale in 99 Anthropologie stores across America, selling for a total of more than \$50,000, or £30,000.

The kit includes a glass bottle, pieces of decorative paper for writing resolutions and an inspirational quote.

Rosey said: "It's so exciting to have my first commercial order from such a prestigious international brand. My business has advanced dramatically in the last couple of months and we have shown that there is demand for British design."

Cassie Nentwig, the stationery and gift buyer at Anthropologie, said: "The kits look amazing. I love this style."

Rosey had help with the new venture from Lance Jones of Working Strategy, in Raunds, who helped her turn her craft-based business into a larger manufacturing business.

She said: "Without Lance's help, I would have had to turn the offer it down."

The first order of 1,667 New Year Resolution kits was delivered to Anthropologie in November and products from Rosey's new Message in a Bottle gift range was shipped out earlier this month.

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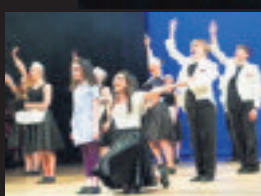
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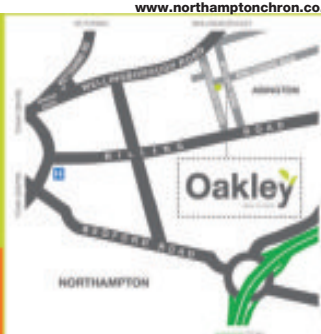
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A beautiful, kind and loving Wife of Rodney
and Mother to Heather, Christopher and Paul.
Grandchildren Shannon, Andrew and April.
Lucy, William and Eve Susan.
Remembered by all her family.

Why, when the sky is a radiant blue
Do you come so strongly into my mind
So close to me, next to me
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As if through a glass darkly
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Janet

30th December 2011

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26/12/2013



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FRIENDLY COMPANION Straight, outgoing Wellingborough female, 49, N/S, likes concerts, dining out and travel, would like to meet other similar, straight females, for days out and a lasting friendship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 155681



IS ANYBODY OUT THERE? Sincere, kind-hearted Bedford male, 57, 5'5", would like to meet a CD or TV, for fun, friendship and perhaps love. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 152787

LET'S GO OUT SOMETIME Sociable, caring, loyal Aylesbury man, 53, 6ft, enjoys nights out and cooking, looking for a genuine, honest lady, with similar interests, for a long term relationship. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149084 or send a text to 80361

SEARCHING FOR A SPECIAL LADY Laid back, considerate male, 53, would like to meet a sincere, reliable lady, for fun, friendship and hopefully more. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158035 or send a text to 80361

LOTS MORE TO SAY Easygoing, fit, widowed Aylesbury male, 68, 6ft, enjoys the simple things in life, would like to meet a friendly gent, for fun, companionship and maybe more in the future. Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 153481

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SPORT

King: I could have done more

But caretaker manager Andy still wants the Cobblers top job

FOOTBALL

Andy King doesn't think he's given the best account of himself as Cobblers caretaker manager.

The stand-in boss, who picked the team for the games at Burton and Portsmouth over Christmas, stepped into the role in the wake of Aidy Boothroyd's sacking.

Prior to the games, he said his main aim was to simply do the job to the best of his ability and while he is largely pleased that he has done that, he feels he has failed in the prime objective of winning games.

"There are things in football that you can't control, silly things that affect matches," he said. "But I'm looking for little signs to please me and at Portsmouth I got quite a lot of them.

"I don't think I've done the best job I can do and that's because I haven't done the one thing I knew I had to do, and that was to win football matches. But if you take all the elements and factors into consideration, the injuries, the fact we've had players come back from loans and a few other things, then I'm pleased with how we've done.

"We had players on the bench at Portsmouth that have never been near the first team and we had players there who weren't fit but I wanted them on the bench so I didn't

have the excuse that we didn't have enough players.

"I thought I'd taken the youth-team job when I looked at the bench but I saw a spirit and a togetherness in the group and that was pleasing."

King could not have been given three harder games in which to prove his credentials for the job on a full-time basis.

Burton Albion went third with a second successive 1-0 win on Sunday – the first being against the Cobblers on Boxing Day – and are a strong and capable side.

That could not be said of Portsmouth, although they are always a difficult proposition on their own ground and in front of their vast home support.

The tricky trio of matches was rounded off by the visit of league leaders Chesterfield to Sixfields on New Year's Day but King's approach to such a stern hat-trick of fixtures was a relaxed one, even with his immediate future on the line.

"It's good in a way because it makes the other games easier," he said.

"I don't know what's going to happen, I don't know if they want an older manager like me or a younger one."

The Cobblers are quickly back into Sky Bet League Two action on Saturday when they travel to Newport County.

IN THE MANAGERIAL
FRAME - Cobblers
caretaker boss Andy
King



Myler says Saints have taken massive strides

STEPHEN MYLER believes Saints took some massive strides forward during 2013.

And he believes they are in a great position to make the new year a very special one at Franklin's Gardens.

Northampton have progressed markedly during the past 12 months, making their first Premiership final

RUGBY

and starting this season in style.

They currently sit second in the league standings, second in Heineken Cup Pool 1 and top of their LV= Cup group.

"We've taken some massive strides," said Myler.

"Getting to the Premiership final for the first time in

the club's history was a massive achievement.

"It didn't end the way we wanted it to, but it showed us what we're capable of, particularly in those big games.

"Saracens in the semi-final we were dominant and it shows when we're on our game we're more than a match for anyone.

"That gave us confidence going into this season and

given a good pre-season and good training we were ready to go.

"We're in a decent league position now, but we won't win anything in December.

"We've got to put ourselves in a decent league position come April and May and be ready to strike."

Key to Saints' progression during the past 12

months has been the form of Myler, who has established himself as first-choice fly-half.

The 29-year-old signed a new deal at the club in February and is currently the top goalkicker in the Premiership.

And he said: "I was delighted to sign a new deal for the club. It's been my home for the past seven years.

"I was delighted to extend my stay and I'm happy to have had an influence on the team this year and played as much rugby as I can.

"I'm looking forward to improving, individually and as a team. I think we've got a lot more to show, a lot left in us and we can do something really special this year."

Saints entertain Harlequins on Friday night.